

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 561
By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory and legacy of Pope John Paul II.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Pope John Paul II; and

WHEREAS, Karol Jozef Wojtyla was born on May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland; and

WHEREAS, obtaining much of his education after Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939, Karol Wojtyla was ordained a priest in 1946, ordained a bishop in 1958, and appointed Archbishop of Krakow in 1964; and

WHEREAS, elected the successor to Pope John Paul I in 1978, Pope John Paul II was the first Polish pope; he was also the youngest pope in the last 100 years and the first non-Italian pontiff since the sixteenth century; and

WHEREAS, a deeply learned scholar, Pope John Paul II strove for doctrinal purity and wrote over a dozen encyclicals and scores of apostolic letters, constitutions, and exhortations, while always emphasizing holy living, prayer, and Christian service; and

WHEREAS, committed to unity in Jesus Christ, Pope John Paul II traveled extensively, visiting every inhabited continent to encourage and inspire Christians regardless of their economic standing or race; Pope John Paul II also diligently worked to bridge both the gap between Catholics and Protestants, and the gap between Christians and Jews and Muslims; and he made pilgrimages to Eastern Orthodox countries where no pope had ever set foot before; and

WHEREAS, the spiritual leader for over one billion Roman Catholics, Pope John Paul's life served as a testament to God's unending love and unsearchable grace; and

WHEREAS, speaking out against war, economic injustice, political oppression, and the industrialized world's culture of death, Pope John Paul II was the most visible and influential advocate for human dignity; and

WHEREAS, believing that all people are created and loved by God, Pope John Paul II endeavored to show God's love to all people and to serve the marginalized and powerless of this world; and

WHEREAS, carrying on the Prophet's concern for social justice, Pope John Paul II helped the poor, the downtrodden, and those whom society had forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II was completely devoted to ministering and serving the Church, and he changed the role of the pontiff from an administrator and overseer to a servant and spiritual leader; and

WHEREAS, through his great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and trust in God, Pope John Paul II faithfully served God as a compassionate Christian witness to the world; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly recognize Pope John Paul's life of service to the Roman Catholic Church and to the whole world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory and legacy of Pope John Paul II.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.